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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3709
INFO RUEHTU/AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE 0556
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE 1158
RUEHAS/AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE 0722
RUEHRB/AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE 0668
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 0871
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE 0552
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHINGTON DC
RUEHAD/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE 0028
RUEHTRO/AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI 4219

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 TRIPOLI 000588

SIPDIS

ABU DHABI PLEASE PASS TO NEA A/S WELCH

E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/21/2018

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [ODIE](#) [OFDP](#) [LY](#)

SUBJECT: LIBYA ENFORCES TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS AGAINST U.S. OFFICIALS REF: A) TRIPOLI 530, B) TRIPOLI 412, C) STATE 55839, D) TRIPOLI 478 (NOTAL)

CLASSIFIED BY: John T. Godfrey, CDA, U.S. Embassy - Tripoli, Dept of State. REASON: 1.4 (b), (d)

[1](#)1. (C) Summary: Four years after re-establishing diplomatic relations, the Government of Libya (GOL) remains deeply concerned about efforts to ATTEMPTS TO CONDUCT IN-COUNTRY TRAVEL, ENGAGEMENT STRIKE A NERVE

[1](#)2. (C) As reported ref A, an attempt to visit the historical Berber heartland in March prompted an angry response from the MFA and a prohibiti

[1](#)3. (C) Following the protocol established in those discussions, post proposed in early March that Poloff visit the southern city of Sabha (loc EMBOFF DETAINED TO PREVENT TRAVEL TO SABHA

[1](#)4. (C) On May 6, Libyan security officials pulled Poloff out of line on the tarmac at Tripoli International Airport while he attempted to bc

[1](#)5. (C) Following the incident at the airport on May 6, the MFA TRIPOLI 00000588 002 OF 004 sent Post a diplomatic note asking that the s MFA ATTEMPTS TO REQUIRE THAT ALL DIPLOMATS OBTAIN "PERMISSION" FOR IN-COUNTRY TRAVEL

[1](#)6. (SBU) As reported ref B, the MFA sent to Western European and North American missions on May 19 a diplomatic note requiring that all diplom SECURITY SERVICES OBSTRUCT CHARGE'S TRAVEL TO BENGHAZI & POINTS EAST

[1](#)7. (C) On May 23 - after receipt on May 19 of the MFA note requiring permission to travel and before receipt of ref C guidance on May 23 - s

[1](#)8. (C) A Buraq Air agent told CDA and Emboffs during the encounter on May 23 that all Libyan-owned airlines with domestic service - Buraq Air,

[1](#)9. (C) In Benghazi, security officials subjected CDA and Emboffs to a steady stream of harrassment. A security officer met CDA and Emboffs EMBOFFS DENIED "PERMISSION" TO TRAVEL IN SUPPORT OF U.S. PROGRAMS

[1](#)10. (C) In late June, Post formally advised the MFA via diplomatic note that two Emboffs would accompany an Export Control and Border Securit

[1](#)11. (C) On July 9, Post formally advised the MFA via diplomatic note that the Public Affairs Officer, CDA and their son would travel on July 2 TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS APPEAR TO TARGET U.S. DIPLOMATS

[1](#)12. (C) In addition to instructions prohibiting Libyan air carriers from boarding U.S. diplomats for domestic flights from Tripoli, the May 1

[1](#)13. (C) Comment: Despite comments by senior GOL officials attesting to the desire for broader and deeper ties, significant elements of the req